

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 25, 2008, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1 – 8 are rejected. Claims 1 and 8 are amended, and new Claims 9 – 11 are added. Thus, claims 1 – 11 are pending in this application. The amendments are being made solely to more clearly state the invention and are not in any way narrowing of the invention as claimed previously. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification as originally filed. Applicant submits that no new matter is added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 4 – 6 (*sic*) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by McGahn (U.S. Patent No. 6,659,864 (Application No. 10/165,132), hereinafter “McGahn”). It is believed that the Office Action intended to include Claims 7 and 8 as well in this rejection. It should be noted that Claims 4 and 5 do not depend directly on Claim 1 and therefore are not properly included in this rejection.

Further, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner provide a PTO Form 892 with this reference properly listed so that it will be listed on the front of the patent resulting from this application.

The Examiner’s characterization of the reference is vigorously traversed.

Claims 1 and 8 require, *inter alia*, each of the reels having a cylindrical member with an outer periphery, on which symbols are formed, a drive member rotatably

supported contacting the outer periphery of the cylindrical member at a side edge of the reel; and a follower rotatably supported contacting an inner surface of the cylindrical member at a position corresponding to a contact portion where the drive member contacts the outer periphery of the cylindrical member. In this manner, as claimed, the cylindrical member is nipped between the drive member and the follower, and each of the reels is rotated together with the drive member and the follower when the drive member is rotated by the drive motor.

No such structure is shown, taught or suggested in McGahn. The material cited in the Office Action in support of the rejections is directed to a secondary display device 116 having entirely different structure performing in an entirely different manner. The Office Action has no basis for the rejection.

With respect to Claims 6 and 7, these claims depend from allowable Claim 1 and are, therefore, also allowable. In addition there is no teaching or suggestion in McGahn of a pinion. Consequently, it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McGahn in view of Hamano (U.S. Patent No. 5,205,555, hereinafter "Hamano"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as well because the reference does not cure the deficiencies of the primary reference and in fact, does not even teach the features for which the Office Action is citing it.

Claims 2 and 3 are directed to the physical positioning of the drive motor and the rotation control circuit unit relative to the reels.

The Office Action citation of Figure 10 and the description of part of Figure 8 as showing a physical relationship is absurd. Both figures are block diagrams showing circuit configurations. No person of any skill in the art would take those as showings of any type of physical arrangement. If the Office insists that these diagrams are to be taken literally, there is no showing in either McGahn or Hamano of any reels which are positively claimed in Claim 1 from which Claims 2 and 3 depend.

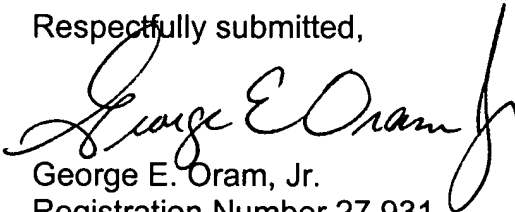
New Claims 9 – 11 are being added. Claim 9 incorporates: all the features of the currently amended claim 1; a rotational shaft; a first suspending member (153A) being mounted under the rotation control unit; a second suspending member (157) mounted under the rotation control circuit unit; and the follower rotatably supported through support shaft which is arranged at a lower portion of the second suspending member; Claim 10 includes two characteristic limitations, namely, "a plurality of display windows formed in front of the cabinet" and "a reel light arranged within the reel". Claim 11 includes a limitation of "spokes arranged between the cylindrical member and the rotational shaft". No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event that this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Docket Number 024016-00076.

Respectfully submitted,


George E. Oram, Jr.
Registration Number 27,931

Customer Number 004372
ARENT FOX LLP
1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036-5339
Telephone: 202-857-6000
Fax: 202-638-4810

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